

**Science Advisory Panel for the
Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team**

8:30 – 10:00am | May 4, 2018

Note: Initial Call of this Panel

Science Advisory Panel Co-chairs

Molly McCammon

Larry Hinzman

Participating SAP Members:

Heather Crowley

Dee Williams

Sarah Trainor

Cheryl Rosa

Franz Mueter

Gay Sheffield

Austin Ahmasuk

Betsy B. Baker

Jeremy Littell

Douglas Causey

Steve Masterman, AK DNR

Moirra Ingle, AK DF&G

State of Alaska

Larry Hartig

Nikoosh Carlo

Danielle Meeker

Alice Edwards

SAP Regrets:

Sara Longan

T Scott Rupp

Hajo Eicken

Carolina Behe

Participating CALT Members

Michael LeVine

Lisa Busch

Public Participants

Charlie Palmer

Raychelle Daniel

1. Larry Hinzman conducted roll call and made introductory remarks
2. Larry Hartig presented an overview of the history of the Governor's Administrative Order, the establishment of the Climate Action Leadership Team (CALT), and the Cabinet Climate Team (CCT). Described the CALT effort to develop recommendations to the Governor for an Alaska Climate Action Plan. Identified the key individuals coordinating these groups.
 - Nikoosh Carlo – Governor's Advisor; Managing internal climate change efforts and liaison between CALT and CCT
 - Nils Andreassen – Institute of North; Secretariat to the CALT; Managing the CALT effort
 - Larry Hartig – Leading the Cabinet Climate Team effort
3. Nikoosh Carlo provided an overview of where the CALT is at in developing its recommendations and their timeline. The CALT recently met in Fairbanks (mid-April) and is currently working on its policy goals, which have been grouped into five categories. Small groups are being formed within the CALT to work on each of the policy categories. They are working toward having a final draft of the Climate Plan developed by mid-July. They plan to finalize their document at a meeting in early August so that it can be complete for delivery to the Governor by the September 1st deadline.

A draft climate change policy and members should feel free to provide input to the recommendations. Instructions for submitting public comment and to download the document are available on the website: <http://climatechange.gov.alaska.gov/policy/>

Specific actions for the science advisory panel

- ensure that the CALT has all the needed published documents related
 - **ACTION:** UAF will create a webpage to archive the resources in a sort of bibliography
 - **ACTION:** Two kinds of documents requested from Science Advisory Panel members - docs that in general cover the broad scope and then any documents that are specific to any of the 5 policy statements (start collecting but wait until Hinzman requests resources so he has a chance to set up a process for collecting/storing info)
 - **ACTION:** Let McCammon/Hinzman know if you would like to engage directly with particular policy teams as they work over the next 6 weeks
- collect the existing needs assessments
 - add to the webpage or share with CALT
 - identify research needs and knowledge gaps
 - **ACTION:** will schedule a call on data gaps
- review the recommendations of the CALT
 - ensure the science coherent and consistent
 - **ACTION:** will schedule a separate call in 2 weeks

Notes from the discussion

Molly McCammon: A lot of discussion in putting together the scope/charge of the group. Wanted to be realistic about what we can accomplish. One advantage we have is being able to build upon work that's happened in the past (i.e. Sarah Palin's Climate Change Sub-Cabinet reports, the Northern Waters Task Force, AAPC). We have a lot to build from. I think we have to be realistic about what's possible and not be overly ambitious. Even though we have a September 1st deadline, the terms of the climate leadership team are three-year terms. This is only the first step. I'm sure we'll be looking for additional input over time. We're trying to look at the reports and recommendations of the CALT and ensuring that they're accurate, viable, consistent, etc. The five working groups of the CALT will be meeting over the next month. It'd be helpful to hear from you if you're interested in participating in those working groups. It would also be helpful if you could contribute to a library of reports and resources, which can be used by the team. Also, you can provide any advice on the input of indigenous knowledge. To ensure that we have a broad input of scientific and indigenous knowledge.

We're not asking for a research plan for these recommendations, but we're asking you to identify where the key gaps are in the state's research portfolio and to identify any low-hanging fruit. Are there places that rise to the top where we need to take immediate action? You are also members of the public, so we do appreciate you providing comment. Currently not a consensus document, but we hope it will be refined and we'll reach consensus.

Also looking for ideas for how to best share this with the public. We can't accomplish all of these things by September 1st; this is just a starting point.

For the short-term, I think it would be most helpful if the CALT had this library of reports and resources. The second most important item would be if needs assessments and gap analyses that are already out there. The third ask is that you review our draft documents for scientific accuracy. Any questions?

Betsy Baker: Question – you listed the various ways that this group might assist and one of the things you mentioned was identifying key gaps in the state's research portfolio. How does that fit into the one-year timeframe vs. the three-year timeframe?

McCammon: I think that based upon the experience of everyone here, you all are really knowledgeable about the state of research in Alaska. In terms of gap analyses, I think it's your best judgment of what you can do.

Larry Hinzman: Gap analyses are valuable not only because they tell us because what needs to be done, but also because it put bounds on what we can recommend (ensuring that we're not

making recommendations without basis.) These gap analyses are tremendously useful to UA researchers.

Larry Hartig: Gap analyses also highlights public/ “real world” needs, and makes it easier to build public support for research.

Dee Williams: Could you state more specifically how we as individuals are encouraged to participate? There are two avenues – one as a SAP and one as a public citizen. I’m assuming that we have more influence as a member of the SAP.

McCammon: Two perspectives: 1) from your scientific expertise, you will have more influence as a member of the SAP 2) it’s always a challenge to get public input into these things, so as a concerned Alaskan I would also encourage you to submit public comment.

Williams: Are you saying that we should submit policy-related comments through the public comment route?

Hartig: I think that if you have policy-related comments then you should feel free to share those.

Jeremy Littell: For some federal science agency employees, we have to present recommendations as a set of alternatives rather than some preferred ones. We have to watch that fine line.

Hartig: This is definitely a request from the State government for your help. We’re not soliciting volunteers – we respect that you work for these organizations and you have to work with the rules that you have.

Littell: It’s a matter of nuancing the messages as we tiptoe up to the policy line. That’s up to us to navigate that process. If we need approval, then we can go through the logical channels.

Steve Masterman: are you looking for areas where we feel we can contribute to the policy areas #1-5, and if so, when?

McCammon: We’re going to be talking at the end about the timeline and deliverables. As I mentioned, the WGs are going to be working pretty intensely over the next six weeks.

Franz Mueter: Wondering what the scope is in terms of documents. Are we looking specifically at Alaska’s needs, or can we gather examples from elsewhere that might be useful?

Hartig: I would leave it to the expertise of the panel. The strategy is supposed to be dealing with the things that are most important to Alaska, recognizing that there are areas where global efforts are needed. We don’t want to be parochial, but we do want to stay Alaska-focused.

McCammon: One thing I would add is that we don’t want to reinvent the wheel.

Cheryl Rosa: We're connected pretty closely with the Denali Commission, and I'm sure you're aware of their statewide threat assessment. We'll try to keep you guys connected with it.

Hartig: That's a key document. We talked at the Disaster Policy Cabinet meeting yesterday about how we can use this going forward.

Hinzman: The input we'll solicit doesn't need to be limited to this group. If you feel that there's a gap, don't hesitate to suggest that we pull information from another person or group.

Austin Ahmasuk: I expect that I'm expected to contribute to indigenous knowledge. I'm a contributor, not an incorporator. The SOA has quite a few reports on how indigenous knowledge is incorporated into our educational standards. Is there a guide that the CALT is using on how to incorporate indigenous knowledge?

Nikoosh Carlo: I haven't seen anything within state documents. The way that we're integrating knowledge is through work sessions of leadership team.

Ahmasuk: I'm excited for us to look at other methods for how to incorporate.

Williams: I get the baskets of areas you're asking us to contribute to. If we have comments right now of an editorial nature about the documents that have already been circulated, what do we do with those?

Carlo: What kind of comments?

Williams: Wordsmithing/suggested edits about how to make things more clear.

Carlo: For those types of comments, I recommend that you submit through the public comment process listed on the website.

McCammon: My understanding is that the CALT working groups will receive those public comments and work to incorporate them so the sooner we receive them the better.

Carlo: I'd also like to remind everyone that these calls are open for public listening. Anyone from the public can listen in to these meetings. Any documents that are e-mailed back and forth are part of the public record.

Hinzman: Will send out instructions on how to submit reports and resources.

McCammon: I think it's important that we turn to existing working groups or knowledge institutions as well.

Hinzman: Let's divvy up the work assignments. It would be helpful if everyone on this panel could identify existing groups that we know are out there. You can e-mail Molly or me and Molly can take the lead on reaching out to institutions and asking what gaps they've identified.

Hinzman: Going to try to create an online archive of documents that we all can see.

McCammon: What about a timeline?

Hinzman: I would ask people to hit the ground running. Don't start sending me stuff just yet – I need to find an easy way for us all to have access to documents. Possibly a Google Drive that we all can have access to. I'll try to coordinate that and prevent duplications. I'll get that set up within the next week. I also think we need to have another phone call in the near future to review the CALT's existing recommendations. Is two weeks too soon?

McCammon: Around May 18th?

Hinzman: I'll have Cassie send out a Doodle poll. We'll also need a second call about the data gaps or knowledge gaps. Initial call to review the documents and then a follow-up call about knowledge gaps.

Baker: I have a question about structure. There was a request for us to identify which policy statements we'd be most interested in, but then Molly spoke of us being connectors. It sounds like right now you're looking for us as individuals to send us what information we have. I don't sense yet how the group will interact with each other. Outside of the calls, do you want any additional coordination between members?

McCammon: I think that you should go for it if you want to coordinate with other members. We're at capacity at coordinating amongst ourselves, but if you see value in coordinating outside of the calls then we encourage that.